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(A.B. Dartmouth College, 1942)

In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for
The Degree of Master of Science in Social Service

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The field of child welfare has as its basis the rehabilitation of the child through the use of various techniques; such as the actual placement of the child in a home, school, or institution; modification of the home environment to permit the child to live in his native setting; or the use of direct therapy in connection with the child. This latter technique is the most direct therapy in connection with the child.

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child placed in a home, by virtue of their name, have utilized environment to a high degree, but have steadily come to recognize the importance of the visitor-child relationship in effecting a satisfactory solution to the child's problems.

The basis of any effort to help the child lies in a full understanding of the child as a product of heredity plus environment. His behavior responses at home, at school, and in the community must always be weighed in terms of his emotional needs and the degree to which these have been satisfied. A low degree of satisfaction or gratification will often result in some form of anti-social or socially

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The field of child welfare has as its basis the rehabilitation of the child through the use of various techniques; such as, the actual placement of the child in a foster home, school, or group setting; manipulation of the home environment to permit better adjustment of the child in his native setting; or through skilled case work or psychiatric services more directly beneficial to the child. This latter technique is commonly referred to as direct therapy in contrast to the former methods called indirect therapy. The child placing agencies, by virtue of their name, have utilized environmental manipulation to a high degree, but have steadily come to recognize the importance of the visitor-child relationship in effecting a satisfactory solution to the child's problems.

The basis of any effort to help the child lies in a full understanding of the child as a product of heredity plus environment. His behavior responses at home, at school, and in the community must always be weighed in terms of his emotional needs and the degree to which these have been satisfied. A low degree of satisfaction or gratification will often result in some form of anti-social or socially

unacceptable behavior, either in an effort to punish others for what the child has suffered, or to gain increased attention in order to have his needs more completely fulfilled.

If the child's emotional needs continue to be unmet, the behavior pattern will continue, and over a period of time will become so internalized and deep-rooted, that its origin may well be lost sight of.

These emotional needs of long standing cannot be met in a week or a month, even by visitors highly trained to recognize and deal with them.

Consequently, the writer has selected a group of cases from the records of the Boston Children's Aid Association in an effort to discover how much could be accomplished with boys presenting personality adjustment or behavior problems, within a six month's period following referral.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This study will endeavor to show in how far the agency was successful in recognizing the basic need or needs, especially when these differed from the need as seen by the referring person or persons; the methods of meeting these needs; and the situation upon discharge.

Was the agency justified in accepting these cases? Did the child recognize his problem and did he desire help? To what extent did heredity and environmental factors cause

or affect the problem? Were the parents able to accept help? Were satisfactory resources available for meeting the boy's needs? Did the cause for success or failure of a case upon discharge lie in the boy or in the plan?

These will be some of the questions to be answered in this study, and will form the basis for the concluding remarks.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The material for this study is all taken from the records of the Boston Children's Aid Association by a process of selective sampling.

Although both girls and boys are cared for by the Association, this study will be limited in its case material to the records of boys discharged during the calendar year 1944 who had been in care for six months or less, and were between the ages of nine and eighteen years at the time of referral. These age limits have been somewhat arbitrarily selected; the lower one chiefly because it includes the pre-adolescent ages, when many problems begin to appear following the latent stage of personality development; and the upper one because it represents the maximum age which agency policy has set for accepting cases. The lower limit ruled out several cases of younger boys, while the upper limit, naturally, had no

limiting effect. Thus, the ages included cover notably the "critical age"¹ of pre-adolescence and adolescence, a period when children who may have had no incentive for self-discipline must learn to socialize their instinctual needs and their sources of gratification.

A further limitation has been imposed in an effort to limit this study: namely the restriction of cases selected to those concerned with a personality adjustment or a behavior problem. Thus, cases that provided temporary care while a mother was to be hospitalized were excluded while summer camp placement requests when there was a potential danger of delinquency if the child remained in the community, were included.

The writer believes that this representative sampling is adequate and valid because it includes all the cases within the imposed limitations, that were discharged during the full calendar year of 1944.

METHOD OF STUDY

The basis of this study is eighteen case records from the Boston Children's Aid Association which represent the total number of cases discharged in the calendar year 1944, which met the requirements noted in the preceding

1 Ernest R. Groves and Phyllis Blanchard, Mental Hygiene, p. 130

pages. The choice of records of this particular agency was determined wholly by the facilities for study which were made available there while the writer was doing his field work.

Therefore, it seems fitting to acknowledge indebtedness to Mr. Alfred F. Whitman, Executive Secretary of the Boston Children's Aid Association, for permission to make use of the case material; and to Miss Jean M. Kellock, Supervisor of Study and Training of the Boston Children's Aid Association, for extremely helpful criticisms and suggestions.

At the beginning of this study, the writer found himself confronted with 176 cases that were closed during the year 1944. The limitations of time were against making a study of this large number of records, and consequently the foregoing limitations were imposed in order to attain a body of material that could be carefully studied and conveniently handled.

In further explanation of the limitations that were imposed, the following rules governed the selection of cases:

1. Only cases involving placement of boys outside their own home were considered for the purpose of this study.

2. Cases where the only service rendered was summer placement for boys who did not present personality adjustment or behavior problems were disregarded.
3. Temporary cases where placement was for reasons other than the boy's own adjustment, such as hospitalization for the mother, were likewise disregarded.
4. In some instances, summer placement or temporary placement cases have been included in this study because there existed a potential behavior or personality problem if the child were allowed to remain in the community.

This selection of cases has placed the emphasis on the case work services offered by the agency in addition to the ostensible function of providing placement facilities. These include making a thorough study of the boy, his family background, his environment, and his behavior patterns; forming a working relationship with the boy that can be utilized to help gain a satisfactory adjustment; for him; and the use of psychiatric or vocational referral when necessary. All these activities better enable the visitor to match the needs of the boy with the available resources, and reduce in so far as possible the trauma connected with the actual placement.

On the basis of the analysis of a few cases, the writer drew up a schedule with a dual purpose: first, to govern the choice of case history material which would be needed for this study, and second, to show points of significant interest in the case history. A detailed explanation

of this schedule will be found in the Appendix.

The writer then proceeded to study the eighteen cases, noting the factual data, and abstracting the case material in order to present a picture of the significant factors involved in each record. Some evaluation of the case work is self-evident from the abstracts, and whenever possible, the writer consulted the visitor who carried the case, to secure information in addition to that contained in the record.

PLAN OF PRESENTATION OF DATA

In this, the final section of the Introduction, it seems fitting to outline the plan for presentation of the subject matter to be presented. Chapter I, the Introduction, is self-explanatory. Chapter II deals with the history and organization of the Boston Children's Aid Association with a statement of its purpose and functions, and a picture of the setting in which it operates. Chapter III is based on a summary prepared by Miss Jean M. Kellock, of the cases discharged in 1944, and is included to describe further the work of the agency, and to form a background against which the cases selected may be viewed. Chapter IV contains the abstracts of the eighteen cases studied, together with such pertinent

information as could be gathered from the card file of the Study Department or from the worker himself. Chapter V attempts to sum up the significant points brought out in the abstracts. Chapter VI contains the conclusions reached by the writer in regard to the services rendered in these cases, and some suggestions offered on the basis of the observations made.

The Children's Aid Association is like a stream formed by the union of a number of tributaries. It now represents a combination of four agencies. 1. The Boston Female Asylum (the name was later changed to the Boston Society for the Care of Girls); 2. The Massachusetts Infant Asylum (the name was later changed to Massachusetts Babies' Hospital); 3. The Boston Children's Aid Society; 4. The North End Mission.

The Boston Female Asylum, founded in 1800, dates back to the beginning of organized aid for children, and its history reflects the changes and advancement in thinking through the years. Out of the asylum came the indenture system, which was used by the Society until 1906, when foster home care became the chief area of service, the children being carefully studied, and matched with a home which had been equally studied.

-
1. Edith M. M. Saylor and Elie D. Monachesi, The Rehabilitation of Children, page 470.

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CHAPTER II

THE BOSTON CHILDREN'S AID ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZATION & PURPOSES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Boston Children's Aid Association is an incorporated group of social agencies, each one having continued its special field of endeavor.

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1. Edith M. H. Baylor and Elio D. Monachesi, The Rehabilitation of Children, page 496

It was about this time also that the use of a temporary observation home started.

The Children's Aid Society was started in 1863 with its first annual report stating the purpose to be:

Taking from the streets boys from seven to twelve years of age, who are living in such exposed and neglected circumstances as to be likely to fall into vicious habits, or those who have already taken the first step in crime; and in place of the wild life they have been leading, to train them for a while, as in a family, with love and religious care; to place them, if possible in better circumstances, and to maintain an oversight and influence upon them even after they leave us.¹

The Society early made use of farm placements for its boys, and in lieu of a congregate institution, set up a large temporary care home in one of the suburbs of Boston, where boys could stay pending foster home placement. For the first twenty years, the work of the Society was confined mainly to delinquent children, a service for girls also having been established. Cases were referred by the Chaplain of the Boston Court for placement, including those having just been before the court and those who had completed reformatory sentences. The work at this time was broadened to include the dependent as well as the delinquent child, but the activity of the state in the care of dependents soon relieved the

¹ Taylor and Hunschoel, op.cit., page 305

1. Annual Report to the Board of Directors in 1864

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private agencies, so that services were restricted to children needing special care.¹

To facilitate medical attention for the children in care, which had been a serious lack in the overall program, a Preventive Clinic was established in 1915 in conjunction with the Boston Dispensary, and the Church Home Society. The Citizenship Training Division of the Boston Juvenile Court also uses this Clinic for boys placed on Probation.

The Children's Aid Society also started in 1884 the Home Library Plan, later to be called the Department of Neighborhood Clubs which drew together groups of children in various areas for reading and play. This department has continued to offer organized recreation to children, having served 374 in the year 1944.

By 1910, the Children's Aid Society had become a child placing agency in the modern sense, defining clearly its processes of investigation, home finding, and placement. The organization was serving as a model for other agencies, and a training center for professional social workers.²

1. Baylor and Monachesi, op.cit., page 509

2. Baylor and Monachesi, op.cit., page 513

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1. Baylor and Monahan, *op. cit.*, page 209

2. Baylor and Monahan, *op. cit.*, page 212

Close cooperation has continued with the Boston Juvenile Court which was founded in 1907, and its probation system under which many children are referred to the agency for placement. Acceptance of these referrals was always on a voluntary basis, with the Probation Officer retaining custody. Thus, when a child or his family objected so strongly that placement was impossible to carry out, the worker had to return the child to the Probation Officer, with a consequent evaluation of "Unimproved." Also, many of the cases had poor prognoses or were considered to be unaidable by the services the Association had to offer.

By 1922 the earlier-mentioned agencies had responded to the conviction that there were too many child-placing agencies, and they combined to form the Children's Aid Association in 1922. This new combination enabled the Association to deal with the welfare of every type of child regardless of nationality, religion, or situation. Under the management of Mr. Alfred F. Whitman there has been continually increasing interest in the search for causes and the study of treatment, evaluation of case work processes and the application of psychiatric concepts in methods of treatment.¹

1. Baylor and Monachesi, op. cit., page 518

Close cooperation has continued with the Boston Juvenile Court which was founded in 1907, and the probation system under which many children are referred to the agency for placement. Assistance of these workers was always on a voluntary basis, with the probation officer retaining custody. Thus, when a child or his family objected to a proposed placement, it was impossible to carry out, the worker had to return the child to the Probation Officer, with a consequent evaluation of "Unimproved." Also, many of the cases had poor prognosis or were considered to be unsuitable by the services the Association had to offer.

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1. Butler and Monahan, *op. cit.*, page 518.

SIZE OF AGENCY

From the small number of special cases cared for in the years of the nineteenth century, some 1000 children were cared for in 1935. In 1944, the year this study included, services were rendered to 1632 boys and girls. Seven hundred and twenty-eight were helped by the Department of Foster Care; three hundred and seventy-four were members of the Home Library Clubs; three hundred and thirty-three from courts and other agencies were given temporary care in foster homes, and one hundred ninety-seven were advised or referred to other agencies for service.

Despite the adverse factors of economic depression and international war which necessitated some curtailment of services due to financial and personnel restrictions, the Association has continued to enlarge its areas of service, and to keep abreast of the constantly changing thinking in the field of child-placing.

CHAPTER III

GENERAL PICTURE OF CASES DISCHARGED IN 1944

The total picture of discharges during the year 1944 has been well shown in a study made by Miss Kellock and her department. As previously mentioned, there was a total of 178 discharges for 176 children, two having been in care twice during the year. Of this number 123 had been in care less than fifty-two weeks, which seemed to indicate "a trend toward more children being given care for shorter periods of time."¹ Of the total 176, there were eighty-seven boys, thirty-three girls, and fifty-six children under the age of three at time of referral. The eighty-seven boys were almost equally divided in the two age classifications set up, forty-five lying within the three to thirteen-year class, and forty-two in the thirteen to twenty-one year class. (This upper limit includes boys who had been in care for at least three years.) In the eighteen cases finally selected by the writer, this system of age classification was cut across, the ages ranging from nine years and one month to seventeen years and two

1. All quotations in this chapter are from Miss Kellock's report.

CHAPTER III

GENERAL PICTURE OF CASES HANDLED IN 1944

The total picture of discharges during the year 1944 has been well shown in a study made by Miss Kellock and her department. As previously mentioned, there was a total of 178 discharges for 1944 children, two having been in care twice during the year. Of this number 123 had been in care less than fifty-two weeks, which seemed to indicate "a trend toward more children being given care for shorter periods of time." 1 Of the total 178, there were eighty-seven boys, thirty-three girls, and fifty-six children under the age of three at time of referral. The eighty-seven boys were almost equally divided in the two age classifications set up, forty-five lying within the three to thirteen-year class, and forty-two in the thirteen to twenty-one year class. (This upper limit includes boys who had been in care for at least three years.) In the eighteen cases finally selected by the writer, this system of age classification was not correct, the ages ranging from nine years and one month to seventeen years and two

1. All quotations in this chapter are from Miss Kellock's report.

months. However, such a classification would place four boys in the first group, and fifteen in the second.

In the referral of cases "the recognition of the possibilities of help for children through foster home placement continued to be largely by workers in social agencies, rather than by parents, relatives, or other interested individuals." One hundred and thirty-eight children were referred by social agencies (including the Probation Offices of the courts) while only forty were referred directly by parents or other individuals.

In a consideration of the outstanding problems presented, in the total picture of 176 cases, the largest group was found under the heading of "Behavior with associated problems" which accounted for sixty-three children. The second largest group concerned the problem of illegitimacy and accounted for forty-six children. Problems growing out of the death of one or both parents, the illness of one or both parents and separation of parents accounted for the bulk of the remaining sixty-seven children.

Upon discharge, for evaluation purposes, the children were divided into those under care more than one year and less than one year. Of the fifty-three children in the former class, only seven were considered

"Unimproved" while eighty-seven cases were "Improved". (See Appendix for definition of these terms.) Of the thirty-six cases considered "Unimproved", twenty-nine were in care less than six months. "This included children accepted as experimental cases from the courts or the Judge Baker Guidance Center where, at the outset, the prognosis was known to be doubtful, and where placement was used chiefly as a diagnostic tool to learn the extent of the child's problem."

The Children's Aid Association is non-sectarian in its intake policy but does impose some restrictions. Thus, children brought up in the Episcopal Church are referred to the Church Home Society; Jewish children are referred to Jewish agencies unless they are living outside of areas served by such agencies, and Roman Catholic children under three years of age are referred to Catholic agencies. Children of all religious faiths and cultural backgrounds are cared for by the Children's Aid Association within the limits and divisions set up by inter-agency agreements. One hundred and five children had parents of the same nationality, eighty-seven of these being American. Parents from Italy, Ireland, Greece, Canada, Albania, Armenia, Syria and France made up the rest. Twenty-nine children had one parent born in the United States and ten had parents born in two

"improved" while eighty-seven cases were "improved". (See Appendix for definition of these terms.) Of the thirty-six cases considered "improved", twenty-nine were in care of the same child. This included children accepted as experimental cases from the courts or the Judge Baker Guidance Center where, at the outset, the prognosis was known to be doubtful, and where placement was used chiefly as a diagnostic tool to learn the extent of the child's problem.

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different countries. Only a few Negro children are placed by the Association, three appearing among those discharged in 1944.

The examination of the religious picture showed ninety children had both parents of Protestant faith, forty-three had both parents of Roman Catholic faith, and five both Greek Catholic. Parents of thirty children had different faiths.

Psychological testing of ninety of the 176 children discharged showed that seventy-four possessed average or better intelligence, while thirteen were in the dull normal range, and three were considered retarded. The group of superior children were evenly divided between "Improved" and "Unimproved" at time of discharge, the children in this group frequently presenting the greatest problems in adjustment. In reports of testing prior to placement, prognoses were often omitted, making it difficult for the Children's Aid Association to evaluate the results of their efforts.

The writer feels that the statistics given in the preceding pages will constitute a background of the total agency picture against which the selected cases may be better seen as representative samples.

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The writer feels that the statistics given in the preceding pages will constitute a background of the total agency picture against which the selected cases may be better seen as representative samples.

CHAPTER IV

CASE ABSTRACTS

Case #1

Samuel Arthurs, born February 26, 1931 was referred on June 21, 1944 by the Division of Child Guardianship for placement and case work. He had been before a local court on charges of Breaking and Entering, his mother stating that he had been stealing for five years, and that she was completely unable to control the boy. He had been under the care of the Division of Child Guardianship but had failed to make a satisfactory adjustment in two foster homes. The Division of Child Guardianship felt it had no further plan to offer, and that intensive case work was needed. Samuel was temporarily accepted for study and care on application date.

This boy was the sixth of eight children born to a Swedish father and Italian mother. The mother had been receiving Aid to Dependent Children since the father, an alcoholic, had deserted. The father was Protestant but the children had been brought up in the mother's religion, Roman Catholic. The parents had been forced into marriage, and neither seemed to feel much responsibility toward the children.

CHAPTER IV
CASE ABSTRACTS

Case #1

Samuel Arthur, born February 22, 1931 was referred on June 21, 1944 by the Division of Child Welfare for placement and case work. He had been before a local court on charges of breaching and entering, his mother stating that he had been stealing for five years, and that she was completely unable to control the boy. He had been under the care of the Division of Child Guardianship but had failed to make a satisfactory adjustment in two foster homes. The Division of Child Guardianship felt it had no further plan to offer, and that intensive case work was needed. Samuel was temporarily accepted for study and care on application data. This boy was the sixth of eight children born to a Swedish father and Italian mother. The mother had been receiving Aid to Dependent Children since the father, an alcoholic, had deserted. The father was Protestant but the children had been brought up in the mother's religion, Roman Catholic. The parents had been forced into marriage, and neither seemed to feel much responsibility toward the children.

Samuel had been psychologically tested, found to have border line intelligence of seventy-five, and the recommendation was made that he would respond better to male than female supervision because of the mother's weakness in the home situation.

Since he had not adjusted in previous foster homes, the boy was placed in a temporary home pending the selection of a small group placement where he could form a relationship with a father figure, tempered by the contact with other boys of his age level. However, the boy ran away two weeks after temporary placement, having been quite resistant, and unappreciative of any attempts to help him fit into the group. Since the court would not allow him to stay in his own home, a foster home was selected where the foster mother works very well with difficult boys, but the boy ran away from his own home before the placement could be effected.

A good deal of time was spent in the preparation for placement by the visitor, but the boy seemed afraid of all new situations, expressed strong feelings of inferiority and lack of self confidence, and seemed inaccessible to the idea of placement away from home in any form.

Samuel was remanded to the court and the case was closed as Unimproved on November 1, 1944.

Samuel was remanded to the court and the case was

closed as Unsettled on November 1, 1944.

Case #2

Enrico Petrillo, born November 14, 1930 was referred on January 18, 1944 by the Probation Officer of a local court for foster home placement, while on suspended sentence for three counts of Breaking and Entering. He was temporarily accepted for care and study on application date.

Enrico was the sixth of eight children born to Italian parents. The family had a long record of support by public agencies, both parents being irresponsible, the mother dominating and demanding, the father shiftless, heavy drinker and illiterate. The home was filthy, the neighborhood poor, and the boy had constantly been exposed to drinking, stealing, cheating, lying and abusive neglect. Enrico had no standards of good conduct, had no constructive traits or interests, and considered his activities as leader of the robbery gang as a perfectly proper way to obtain things he wanted.

He was immediately placed in a temporary boarding home for study, where he showed some promise of better behavior, although requiring constant supervision and direction. Two months later he was placed in a foster home with a good many boys to determine if he could continue his improvement without close supervision. Within a month he had organized a gang, and broken into another

Amador Petrillo, born November 14, 1930 was referred on January 19, 1944 by the Probation Officer of a local court for Foster home placement, while on suspended sentence for three counts of Breaching and Entering. He was temporarily accepted for care and study on application date.

Amador was the sixth of eight children born to Italian parents. The family had a long record of support by public agencies, both parents being irresponsible, the mother dominating and demanding, the father shiftless, heavy drinker and illiterate. The home was filthy, the neighborhood poor, and the boy had constantly been exposed to drinking, stealing, cheating, lying and excessive neglect. Amador had no standards of good conduct, had no constructive traits or interests, and considered his activities as leader of the robbery gang as a perfectly proper way to obtain things he wanted.

He was immediately placed in a temporary boarding home for study, where he showed some promise of better behavior, although requiring constant supervision and direction. Two months later he was placed in a Foster home with a good many boys to determine if he could continue his improvement without close supervision. Within a month he had organized a gang, and broken into another

home. Application was made at Children's Village, a small institutional resource, and to Connecticut Junior Republic, these two being virtually the only institutional and school resources that afford close supervision, but neither place would accept him.

The case was referred back to the court, and closed as Unimproved on April 3, 1944 because of lack of available resources to reeducate the boy properly, with his long history of poor family and environmental influences. Because of his organizing abilities, a controlled setting was indicated for this program of social reeducation, and the Children's Aid Association has only the two above-mentioned resources.

home. Application was made at Children's Village, a small institutional resource, and to Connecticut Junior Republic, these two being virtually the only institutional and school resources that afford close supervision, but neither place would accept him.

The case was referred back to the court, and closed as Unimproved on April 5, 1944 because of lack of available resources to rehabilitate the boy properly, with his long history of poor family and environmental influences. Because of his organizing abilities, a controlled setting was indicated for this program of social rehabilitation, and the Children's Aid Association has only the two above-mentioned resources.

Case #3

Thomas Reilly born on May 11, 1927, was referred on July 17, 1944 by a local Probation Officer for farm placement for general health reasons. The court had had contacts with the family over a long period, in connection with thirty years of marital discord following the forced marriage of the parents. Both were of Irish descent, the father was an alcoholic and a gambler, and the mother, after several attempts at suicide, finally disappeared following the desertion of the father.

Thomas was the youngest of eight children, and never had much of a home life, living irregularly with relatives, none of whom could assume responsibility for his care.

Since an older brother had been successfully placed by the Association on a farm two years earlier, and then joined the Navy, Thomas wanted to have some such plan made. On August first, he was placed in a temporary boarding home for one week to await farm placement, and although he tried to be reliable and helpful, he showed a great lack of personal cleanliness and responsibility for duties. The farm placement was made as scheduled, but after ten days he ran away and could not be located. Since there was no court custody the case was closed on

Case 43

Thomas Kelly born on May 11, 1927, was referred on July 17, 1944 by a local Probation Officer for farm placement for general health reasons. The court had had contacts with the family over a long period, in connection with thirty years of marital discord following the forced marriage of the parents. Both were of Irish descent, the father was an alcoholic and a gambler, and the mother, after several attempts at suicide, finally disappeared following the desertion of the father.

Thomas was the youngest of eight children, and never had much of a home life, living irregularly with relatives, none of whom could assume responsibility for his care.

Since an older brother had been successfully placed by the Association on a farm two years earlier, and then joined the Navy, Thomas wanted to have some such plan made. On August first, he was placed in a temporary boarding home for one week to await farm placement, and although he tried to be reliable and helpful, he showed a great lack of personal cleanliness and responsibility for duties. The farm placement was made as scheduled, but after ten days he ran away and could not be located. Since there was no court custody the case was closed on

August 16, 1944 as Unimproved, although certain medical and dental services had been rendered. The visitor felt that Thomas was insufficiently mature and responsible to handle a job at present, although, because of his age, vocational counseling rather than placement seemed indicated. However, no referral was made by the worker since the boy's whereabouts were not known.

August 18, 1944 as Unimproved, although certain medical and dental services had been rendered. The visitor felt that Thomas was insufficiently mature and responsible to handle a job at present, although, because of his age, vocational counseling rather than placement seemed indicated. However, no referral was made by the worker since the boy's whereabouts were not known.

Case #4

Donald Crumm, born in 1928, was referred on September 17, 1943 by Dr. Burns of the Judge Baker Guidance Center for placement. The boy had originally gone to the Judge Baker Guidance Center for help with a speech defect, and showed a good deal of insight into his own mental sickness. His parents were both Americans and Protestants. Some three years before, the father had committed suicide by an overdose of medicine that the boy, who was an only child, had gotten for him, and there was a good deal of guilt about this incident. Speech training greatly improved the stuttering, but Dr. Burns felt that continued conflict between the mother and boy, and her inability to control his activities, necessitated placement in a small semi-custodial school where psychiatric treatment or advice was available.

Donald had superior intelligence, and a good deal of artistic ability. He acknowledged his inability to get along with other children, and did not consider himself entirely "normal." He accepted the plan to go to Children's Village without much critical thought or consideration of the reality of going away. Within one week after placement, he became so dissatisfied, disillusioned and unhappy, that he wrote to his mother

requesting to be taken out. The mother, in spite of having applied for help at Judge Baker in the first instance, had objected to this plan of placement, although the worker felt she had superficially accepted it as a real help for Donald. She withdrew Donald at the end of the first week, against the advice of the Village authorities, and since there was no court control, Children's Aid Association closed the case on January 18, 1944 as Unimproved. The reason for discharge was both the mother's and boy's inability to stand the separation inherent in placement. The case had been accepted only as an experiment because it appeared that both the mother and boy were emotionally sick, the boy too much so to benefit from any plan other than long-term psychiatric treatment.

Case #5

John O'Malley, born May 10, 1930 was referred by the Citizenship Training Department of the Boston Juvenile Court on November 16, 1943 for foster home placement following his arrest and suspended sentence to Lyman School on charges of being a runaway and a delinquent. Both parents had been born in Ireland, Roman Catholic, and came to this country following the birth of their oldest child and just preceding the birth of John. There were four younger siblings, and the parents said John was the only one who had not turned out well. The father had been bedridden following an industrial accident, and the mother was considered a stern disciplinarian, having caused John's most recent runaway by hitting him with a milk bottle and dislocating his jaw. His history of delinquency dated back three years when he started running away, and was involved in some petty larceny.

Prior study of the boy by the Department of Mental Health Clinic indicated a severe behavior problem directly related to his unsatisfactory environment. He was also considered quite suggestible, and had an Intelligence Quotient of 86. At the time of the clinic visits, early in 1943, it was believed that he had many personal assets and that a change in environment and

psychiatric help would develop a better behavior pattern. The family did move, and he continued to be seen by the psychiatric social worker, but his delinquent behavior continued and he was referred for placement because of the undesirable family situation, and as a last resort before commitment to Lyman School.

John was currently on a runaway episode when the referral was made, and was brought to court on November 29, 1943. He was placed on a suspended sentence pending the formation of a plan by Children's Aid Association. The boy was very unresponsive, not wanting to go to Lyman but not caring for any plan the worker had to offer, resenting the "interference." He was placed in a temporary foster home where he stayed one week, fulfilling his threat to run away as soon as he had the chance. Because of his long standing pattern of running away, he could not adjust to placement, and the Association did not have any "maximum security" resources. The case was closed as Unimproved on January 11, 1944 with the feeling that prognosis was good only if the proper psychiatric environment were available. The boy had been given a chance to live apart from the family setting but could not accept any restriction of activities.

Case #6

Richard Wells, born September 15, 1930 was referred for placement on December 13, 1943 by the Probation Officer of a local court which had placed him on a suspended sentence to Lyman School on a stubborn child complaint, larceny, and running away. He lived with his mother and her fourth husband, an alcoholic, who was a stepfather. The parents were Roman Catholic and the third and fourth marriages had not been recognized by the church because of the preceding divorce from Richard's father.

Richard had not been seen psychiatrically, but school testing gave him an Intelligence Quotient of 108 although he was performing poorly in school. He said he had previously worked on a farm, and wanted to be placed on one immediately, not even wanting to spend the approaching Christmas at home. He was placed on December 16, 1943 and seemed to adjust well, but within a month was detected by the police laying plans for larceny of farm equipment, was returned to the court by the police, and committed to Lyman.

Since Richard had never had a strong father figure to identify with, he seemed unable to adjust his behavior to satisfy the community, even when the setting he requested was supplied by the Children's Aid Association. Thus the court had to commit the boy to protect

the community, and Children's Aid Association closed the case as Unimproved on January 27, 1944, although the boy's request had been fulfilled. The worker felt that the pattern of delinquency was too well established and only a surface adjustment had been made in the few weeks in placement.

Robert was born prior to the marriage of his parents, and for the first ten years of his life had been in a state hospital with a chronic depressive psychosis. The father was of questionable morality, and according to his statements was of questionable intelligence for his younger siblings, and Robert had lived alternately with his mother and father and his grandparents, both of whom were of the same race and background as his mother. He had an average intelligence quotient and was a mediocre student, but had to leave school because of his standing.

The boy had been known to be delinquent for the last three years, but there had been no official action until just prior to the referral date. At this time, prognosis was considered poor by the social worker and Probation Officer, but because the boy had never had an opportunity to develop latent delinquency, they felt he should have the opportunity of a better environment before being sent to Shirley.

Case #7

Robert Saylor, born on January 17, 1929 was referred for placement on November 1, 1943 by the Probation Officer of a local court which had placed him on suspended sentence to Shirley School for several counts of larceny.

Robert was born prior to the marriage of his parents, and for the last ten years the father had been in a state hospital with a manic depressive psychosis. The mother was of questionable morality, was receiving Aid to Dependent Children for two younger siblings, and Robert had lived alternately with the mother and maternal grandmother, both women over-indulging him and shielding him in his delinquent acts. He had an average Intelligence Quotient and was a mediocre student, but had to leave school because of his stealing.

The boy had been known to be stealing for the last three years, but there had been no official action until just prior to the referral date. At this time, prognosis was considered poor by the social worker and Probation Officer, but because the boy had never had an opportunity to develop decent standards, they felt he should have the opportunity of a better environment before being sent to Shirley.

Robert was placed at Children's Village on November 19, 1943 but ran away six times during the first month, and the director felt that the boy could not be helped by his staff in view of his unwillingness to cooperate, that his behavior pattern was too deep-seated, and that "very strict discipline and authority over an extended period of time" was necessary. Since the Children's Aid Association could not offer any such resource, the boy was returned to the court and the case was closed on April 29, 1944 as Unimproved, when an uncle promised to take him to Florida and give him an opportunity for a fresh start.

Private resources were not available to hold the boy long enough for a case work relationship to be established and since the boy was so severely delinquent, it was felt he should have been committed to Shirley at a much earlier date.

Case #8

Eugene Hall, born August 5, 1929 was referred on June 23, 1943 for placement by the Probation Officer of a local court when the boy had come to the attention of the police for exposing himself to the male owner of a store, and was believed to be having homosexual relationships with another boy. His mother said the difficulties in controlling the boy had started when the father had gone into the Army in 1942. The case was not prosecuted because of the father's friendship with the Chief of Police.

During the next three months, visits were arranged at the Judge Baker Guidance Center, at which the boy was openly antagonistic, and the mother used the doctor as a threat. The only conclusions reached were that the boy should have a good masculine influence since the father and older brothers were in the Army. (Eugene was the seventh of eight children; parents both American and in the middle income group.) It was felt Eugene could be swayed to either a homosexual or heterosexual pattern by his relationships in this period. Since the boy and mother were both opposed to placement, the case was held in abeyance until there was court control, or the family desired placement.

The latter request was made on September 19, 1943 as the boy felt he could no longer continue to get along with his mother and she felt that he needed stricter discipline than she could give. The father, by mail, supported the plan of placement at Children's Village, which was effected October 14, 1943.

While in this group placement Eugene ran away twice but started to show improvement in his relationship to the group, was promoted in school, and showed no evidence of homosexuality.

On October 23, 1944 the father became permanently stationed in California and, by agreement with Village officials and the Children's Aid Association, Eugene and his family went to live there. The case was closed on that date as Improved with the feeling that the boy's susceptibility to homosexual and delinquent behavior had been counteracted by the placement, and that the presence of the father, with whom the boy strongly identified, would prevent any future detrimental relationships.

Case #9

John Di Carto, born January 30, 1930 was referred for placement on January 7, 1944 by the Probation Officer of a local court where he was on suspended sentence to Lyman School for car stealing and larceny known to have been going on for over a year, and more recently, truanting. Both of John's parents were born in Italy, the mother coming over at an early age and the father later. The family was Roman Catholic, and there were three younger siblings, all girls, who were well adjusted at home.

The Probation Officer felt that the home situation was difficult for the boy, the mother being a very dominating woman who constantly held the girls up to him as examples of good children, and discriminated against him. John wanted to go to work rather than continue to attend school, despite average intelligence. An investigation was made while the boy was in his own home and the idea of Connecticut Junior Republic appealed to him. He was seen at the Department of Mental Health Clinic, but no report is available. Placement was made on January 19, 1944.

At first there was a bad period of homesickness, with many unrealistic letters being written home of the "horrible" things done to him.

There seemed to be a period of slight adjustment but the original emotions returned, and the boy ran home on March 30, 1944 despite efforts to convince him to continue in placement. His extreme feelings of remorse and homesickness and even physical illness, caused such a withdrawal from activity that the boy could not benefit from placement. The boy continued to be seen in his own home. The case was finally returned to the court on July 6, 1944 since the Children's Aid Association had no available group placement to offer. The boy was considered "Slightly Improved", but the attachment to the family was felt to be too strong for the boy to be able to accept placement. However, the boy presented no behavior problem during placement, which was the basis for the improved status at discharge. No case work was done with the family since the court was carrying that responsibility.

Case #10

Harry Merlanian, born March 20, 1929 was referred for placement on November 16, 1943 by the Probation Officer of a local court where the boy was on a suspended sentence to Shirley School for larceny and truancy, both dating back to September 1942.

Both parents had been born in Armenia but were married in France before coming to this country. They had been in dependent circumstances, but due to the war were self-supporting, and had four children of which Harry was the third.

At time of referral the boy's parents were greatly concerned, wanting to prevent commitment to reform school, and somehow give the boy opportunity to use his superior intelligence to good advantage. His poor attitude toward the Citizenship Training Program of the court indicated a need for group training and stern discipline. However, since the boy did as he pleased despite the suspended sentence he was on, a tentative plan for Children's Village was dropped because it was felt he would run away. He was placed on December 3, 1943 on a farm where he could be closely supervised. There was some improvement in behavior here, although his stealing continued.

When the boy became sixteen the Judge allowed him to return home under pressure of the parents, and by agreement, the Children's Aid Association closed the case on March 22, 1944 as Improved since he had spent four months doing healthy outdoor work under close supervision, but it was felt to be of doubtful lasting value because of the short period of time. The boy returned to a mother who neurotically loved, protected, and indulged him, without exerting any discipline. Because of the family interference, a longer placement would not have been acceptable to the boy, although such a continuance under court control was felt to be a plan that would have lasting benefit.

by the mother. His delinquent behavior was believed to have started soon after this.

John was placed on a farm on March 2, 1944 where he was reported as surly, argumentative and acting like an over-indulged child. On the sixth day of placement, he was arrested for having attempted to wreck a train, and was immediately sentenced to Concord Reformatory.

Children's Aid Association closed the case on March 11, 1944 as Unimproved, but felt that the boy had been given a chance even though he could not make

Case #11

John Meserve, born June 8, 1929 was referred for farm placement on February 17, 1944 by the Probation Officer of a local court where he was on suspended sentence to Shirley School on charges of Breaking and Entering and larceny.

There had also been a problem of behavior and truanting at school, although his work had been satisfactory and his Intelligence Quotient 115. The father said he was unable to manage the boy since the death of the mother in 1942, John being the one who found her dead in bed. This was quite traumatic since he was an only child and had been spoiled and indulged by the mother. His delinquent behavior was believed to have started soon after this.

John was placed on a farm on March 2, 1944 where he was reported as surly, argumentative and acting like an over-indulged child. On the sixth day of placement, he was arrested for having attempted to wreck a train, and was immediately sentenced to Concord Reformatory.

Children's Aid Association closed the case on March 11, 1944 as Unimproved, but felt that the boy had been given a chance even though he could not make

use of it. In view of the severity of the problem, there was a doubtful prognosis and the case was accepted only as an experiment at court request. Welfare Society worker. The boy had become a behavior problem at home and school, habitually truanting, and staying out late nights. In the initial interviews the boy said his troubles started because of home conditions. The family was Roman Catholic, American and self-supporting. The father was in another state, having joined the Navy, and the mother worked six days a week in a nearby shipyard. Roland said sailors were constantly visiting his mother and sisters, and there was no peace in the home so that he could do his homework. For these reasons, boarding school placement was readily acceptable to him.

He was psychologically and vocationally tested at the Southard Clinic and found to have an Intelligence Quotient of 122, spoke freely of his discontent at home, and seemed eager for boarding school. But he continually failed to keep appointments with the Children's Aid Association worker, gradually felt that he wanted foster home placement near enough so that he could visit home occasionally, and finally seemed to be contented with conditions at home. Fell into a shiftless life of not going to school and hanging out

Case #12

Roland Mallory, born March 23, 1929 was referred for placement on March 27, 1944 by a local Family Welfare Society worker. The boy had become a behavior problem at home and school, habitually truanting, and staying out late nights. In the initial interviews the boy said his troubles started because of home conditions. The family was Roman Catholic, American and self-supporting. The father was in another state, having joined the Navy, and the mother worked six days a week in a nearby shipyard. Roland said sailors were constantly visiting his mother and sisters, and there was no peace in the home so that he could do his homework. For these reasons, boarding school placement was readily acceptable to him.

He was psychologically and vocationally tested at the Southard Clinic and found to have an Intelligence Quotient of 122, spoke freely of his discontent at home, and seemed eager for boarding school. But he continually failed to keep appointments with the Children's Aid Association worker, gradually felt that he wanted foster home placement near enough so that he could visit home occasionally, and finally seemed to be contented with conditions at home, fell into a shiftless life of not going to school and hanging out

with a gang. The worker recognized the danger of this and placed him in a summer camp where the prospective foster parents were employed. His adjustment was very poor; he was resentful of discipline and ran away twice, the second time joining a traveling circus, with whom an older brother worked. The worker finally made arrangements for a working permit to be granted and the case was closed on September 30, 1944 as Unimproved. Failure of placement plans was due largely to the boys' own instability, his attachment to his family and the worker's tendency to "give the boy more responsibility than he could handle."

where his behavior improved considerably, although his academic progress was slow in view of average intelligence as reported by the Judge Baker clinic. Both the mother and boy seemed pleased with the placement, but upon the father's release from prison they both became anxious about the father's visits to see the boy because of their harmful and disturbing nature. In view of the feelings of both mother and boy, further placement was not pressed and the case was closed as Improved on December 16, 1944.

It was felt the boy had developed a good deal socially, and had found more acceptable outlets for

Case #13 George about his family than the stealing. The boy George Clark, born July 13, 1930 was referred for placement on April 20, 1944 by a local Friendly Aid Society worker. This agency had been interested in the family because of an impending divorce, the father serving a sentence for rape.

George was the oldest of three children, began stealing about four years prior to the referral, and had been pretty well ostracized by the community, although there had been no official action.

He was placed on May 26, 1944 in a small boarding school in New Hampshire where his behavior improved considerably, although his academic progress was slow in view of average intelligence as reported by the Judge Baker clinic. Both the mother and boy seemed pleased with the placement, but upon the father's release from prison they both became anxious about the father's visits to see the boy because of their harmful and disturbing nature. In view of the feelings of both mother and boy, further placement was not pressed and the case was closed as Improved on December 16, 1944.

It was felt the boy had developed a good deal socially, and had found more acceptable outlets for

his feelings about his family than the stealing. The boy returned to his own home against Children's Aid Association advice as they felt that the boy would have greatly benefitted by longer placement.

Case #14

George Thurston, born April 1, 1932 was referred for placement on May 3, 1944 by his mother upon suggestion of the local school attendance officer. This was a colored, Protestant family, with the parents separated. The boy had habitually truanted over the last two years, disliked school, and stayed out late nights. The mother felt unable to manage the boy. A year previously he had been put on probation for a sex incident and referred to Judge Baker Guidance Clinic. Their report showed an Intelligence Quotient of 87, lack of response to discipline and recommended placement. However, a previous foster home placement made by the mother, had resulted in the experience of his being unjustly accused of stealing, and both mother and boy were resentful of placement plans.

The neighborhood situation was impossible for the boy, since if he was "good" his own gang beat him up, and if he went out with them, his mother whipped him. The mother applied for placement only because the Probation Officer, after the boy became involved in a serious larceny, told her she would have to place him or he would go to reform school.

George was placed in the temporary study home to satisfy the Probation Officer, while a plan could be

devised, but he ran away the second day and could not be located for several days. Due to his questionable character and the lack of resources for colored boys, it was felt the Children's Aid Association could offer no placement plan that would be of value since the boy did not want placement.

The case was closed on June 1, 1944 as Unimproved and the boy sent to Lyman School. The worker felt that the problem was one for a child guidance clinic rather than a placement agency.

and appointments were made at the Habit Clinic which resulted in a psychiatric diagnosis of epilepsy based on a history of convulsions and hyperactivity. He had an Intelligence Quotient of 104. Recommendations were made for placement and the use of dilantin to control the hyperactivity.

Following out of the latter recommendation greatly helped the boy's adjustment to the group in the temporary home, although his behavior was still unpredictable and impulsive during the next month and a half while awaiting camp placement.

The camp placement, started on July 1, 1944, was very successful, the boy adjusting well to the handling of responsibility, and benefiting from the group experience. Since there was confusion about the fall placement, the Children's Aid Association continued

Case #15

John Nelson, born December 30, 1934 was referred on May 16, 1944 by the Probation Officer of a local court for temporary summer placement, pending a fall placement to be arranged by the mother. The court reported that he was spending most of his time on the streets, truanting, and was completely out of control at home.

The boy was placed in the temporary study home, and appointments were made at the Habit Clinic which resulted in a psychiatric diagnosis of epilepsy based on a history of convulsions and hyperactivity. He had an Intelligence Quotient of 104. Recommendations were made for placement and the use of dilantin to control the hyperactivity.

Following out of the latter recommendation greatly helped the boy's adjustment to the group in the temporary home, although his behavior was still unpredictable and impulsive during the next month and a half while awaiting camp placement.

The camp placement, started on July 1, 1944, was very successful, the boy adjusting well to the handling of responsibility, and benefiting from the group experience. Since there was confusion about the fall placement, the Children's Aid Association continued

to care for the boy in a foster home, where he did not benefit as much as he had at camp. The fall placement did not materialize because of the possibility of epilepsy, and since the original purpose of referral had been accomplished and resources were not available for long-term placement due to his condition, the boy was returned to the court and the case closed on November 22, 1944 as Improved. Medical services and diagnosis had been provided, satisfactory summer placement had been effected, and some interpretation had been made to the family to help them accept the handicap of an epileptic-form disorder.

David was a bright boy who graduated from college, and had married an Irish girl who played a passive role in the family constellation. David was the oldest of three children, the other two doing well in school.

Tests showed that the boy had only full normal intelligence, a fact which frustrated the boy in the face of his father's high ambitions for, and demands on, him. The father was quite punitive and restrictive, and not accepting of the boy's limitations, making plans for a special school, at the same time he was having interviews at the Judge Baker. David was quite proud of his family and wanted to be a success, but felt frustrated that he could not satisfy his

Case #16

David Verbotti, born March 3, 1929, was referred for temporary care on June 30, 1944 by Doctor J. of the Judge Baker staff. The boy had been going to the Judge Baker for about a year because of poor school work, and because he had run away from home several times during the last year. On the referral date he refused to return home and was placed immediately in the Children's Aid Association temporary home.

The Judge Baker record showed that David's father had been born in Italy, coming here at an early age, had been one of three brothers who graduated from college, and had married an Irish girl who played a passive role in the family constellation. David was the oldest of three children, the other two doing well in school.

Tests showed that the boy had only dull normal intelligence, a fact which frustrated the boy in the face of his father's high ambitions for, and demands on, him. The father was quite punitive and restrictive, and not accepting of the boy's limitations, making plans for a special school, at the same time he was having interviews at the Judge Baker. David was quite proud of his family and wanted to be a success, but felt frustrated that he could not satisfy his

Case #17
father.

At first, he felt guilty about living away from home, but later said he had been happier there than he ever was at home, and showed no desire to return home. It was felt that little could be done to modify the father's attitude and on August 4, 1944 the father appeared at the foster home to take the boy away, even though the latter wanted to stay. Since Children's Aid Association had no legal rights, the worker advised the boy to go.

As nothing further was heard, the case was closed on September 30, 1944, as Slightly Improved, with advice having been given, and the demonstration that the boy could be happy when not having to meet the demands of his father. There was a possibility that the family had gained some insight into the boy's limitations.

Case #17

John Woods, born 1930, was referred for placement by Doctor G. of Judge Baker Guidance Clinic on July 13, 1944. Both of his parents were dead and he had been living with a married sister who could no longer care for him. He was on probation from a local court on suspicion of accosting a small girl, and had been truanting and stealing for over a year.

Psychological testing showed him to have an Intelligence Quotient of 140, and one of the staff doctors had taken him into his own home on a work basis, but after four weeks of inactivity, and some "pathological attachments to people in the home", the boy was taken out, the feeling being that he needed much more constant attention.

At acceptance, the boy seemed confused and bewildered, and despite his high intelligence, it seemed doubtful that any long-time constructive plan could be devised, due largely to the shortage of capable training facilities. However, placement was made on July 28, 1944 at the Connecticut Junior Republic, and the boy seemed at first contented although he didn't get along well with the other boys. However, after two weeks John ran back to his sister. In the light of the exploratory nature of the Republic placement,

return was not insisted upon but after two weeks, he returned to the office requesting replacement at the Republic. This was done but he ran away twice in the next two weeks.

The worker considered this case untreatable, and since a local court had authority, referred the case back to it on November 29, 1944 as Unimproved. Placement had been provided but the boy seemed emotionally unable or unwilling to accept the type of care which would have been of lasting benefit to him. He was felt to be prepsychotic and too sick for placement.

Case #18

Joseph Noxon, born November 10, 1933, was referred for placement by the Probation Officer of a local court on September 6, 1944. The father was alcoholic and epileptic. The mother was of low mentality, and Joseph had been born seven years before the marriage. In spite of obvious neglect, as shown by an investigation by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, no such finding was made in court. Joseph had developed into a serious behavior problem in the community in the last three years. Many social agencies had tried to help the boy and family without avail.

The boy was treated at the Judge Baker and found to have an Intelligence Quotient in the low nineties. Foster home placement was advised. He was placed in a temporary study home but ran away twice in the next two months. However, after that he made an effort to adjust himself to the placement and was soon placed in a small foster home according to plan. In the next two weeks he ran away twice for no reason he could give except that he wanted to see his mother, which he could have done on a planned basis, but just acted impulsively.

The visitor felt that the boy could not be controlled without constant supervision, and therefore the case was returned to the court and closed on

October 27, 1944 as Slightly Improved. The Children's Aid Association had given the boy an opportunity to make an adjustment away from a poor home situation, and felt that future chances for adjustment were greater than if he had not had this experience of receiving some kind treatment, and made a somewhat appreciative response. However, the boy was so tied to his own mother he could not accept placement. Psychological and medical testing had also been done.

CHAPTER V

OBSERVATIONS DERIVED FROM THE CASES STUDIED

Several significant points of interest are evident in the foregoing case material. In the matter of the referral source, Miss Kellock's comments, expressed in her annual report, are confirmed by the cases selected. The community as a whole does not seem to know of the possibilities for help offered by the agency. Eleven of the referrals or 61 per cent were made by Probation Officers; six or 33 per cent were made by Social Agencies. Only one referral or 6 per cent was made by a parent or relative. Thus it may be said that 94 per cent of the referrals were made by people professionally interested in helping children. (See Table I, page 56)

This seems to indicate that no help is provided until the problem is of long standing and of sufficient severity to warrant attention by those who are employed to safeguard the interests of the community, or render aid to extremely disturbed children. This is also supported when one notices the length of time these problems, or anti-social behavior patterns, existed. (It must be remembered that these periods are only approximations since they are colored by the source of referral.)

TABLE I

SOURCES OF REFERRAL, PROBLEMS CAUSING REFERRAL, AND LENGTH OF TIME PROBLEM EXISTED FOR THE EIGHTEEN CASES STUDIED.

CASE NUMBER	REFERRAL SOURCE				PROBLEM				TIME PROBLEM EXISTED					
	PARENT OR RELATIVE	PROBATION OFFICERS	OTHER SOC. IAL AGENCIES	TRUANCY	DELINQUENCY	PRE- DELINQUENCY	HEALTH	SEX	1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 YEARS	4 YEARS	5 YEARS	UNKNOWN
1			x		x								x	
2		x			x									x
3		x					x							x
4			x			x					x			
5		x			x						x			
6		x			x									x
7		x			x						x			
8		x						x	x					
9		x		x	x				x					
10		x		x	x				x					
11		x		x	x					x				
12			x	x		x								x
13			x			x						x		
14	x			x				x		x				
15		x		x		x	x							x
16			x			x			x					
17			x	x	x			x	x					
18		x				x					x			
TOTALS	1	11	6	7	9	6	2	3	5	2	4	1	1	5

Five cases or 28 per cent were reported to be of one year's duration before referral; two cases or 11 per cent existed for two years; four or 22 per cent presented problems for three years; one each or 6 per cent were of four year and five years' duration; five or 28 per cent were of unknown length. These periods of time can be considered to indicate only the observance of overt symptoms, and not the early signs of approaching difficulty. The severity of the problem can definitely be indicated by the function of the source of referral. Thus, since the majority of referrals were made by Probation Officers, this group appears to offer serious problems of personality adjustments and behavior patterns.

A study of the problems represented in the referrals shows that many of the cases offered difficulties in more than one area. The writer recognized the limitations of the referral reports, but from the information available, there were seven cases that presented multiple problems such as stealing and truanting, or truanting and pre-delinquent behavior. Five cases presented the sole problem of delinquency, but the writer believes, because of the ages involved, that there was probably a problem of truancy also present, although there was no official recognition of it. There were

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only two cases referred which involved a child's health, in one case that being the sole cause for referral, and in the other, a combination with truancy and delinquency. Three referrals involved sex conduct, in one of which that was the only problem, and in the others there was an attendant problem of truancy.

The value of using psychiatric resources for testing and diagnostic purposes is clearly shown by the twelve cases or 67 per cent studied either prior to referral or while being seen by the Children's Aid Association worker. (See Table II, page 59) A consideration of the twelve cases at discharge shows that three cases were evaluated as Improved, three cases as Slightly Improved, and six as Unimproved. Of the six cases that were Unimproved, four had received poor prognoses as a result of psychiatric study, and were accepted chiefly on an experimental basis. Of the twelve cases seen psychiatrically, the prognosis for seven cases was good, four were poor and no prognosis available in one instance. The seven cases with good prognoses showed three cases Improved, two cases Slightly Improved, and two cases Unimproved. Thus five cases of the seven supported the prognosis. There were four cases seen psychiatrically which had a poor prognosis, and again the prognosis was confirmed as all four cases were

TABLE II

PSYCHIATRIC STUDY, PROGNOSSES, AND EVALUATION AT DISCHARGE
FOR THE EIGHTEEN CASES STUDIED.

CASE NUMBER	PSYCHIATRICALY STUDIED		PROGNOSES		DISCHARGE EVALUATION		
	BEFORE REFERRAL	AFTER REFERRAL	GOOD	POOR	IMPROVED	SLIGHTLY IMPROVED	UN- IMPROVED
1	X			X			X
2				X			X
3			X				X
4	X		X				X
5	X			X			X
6			X				X
7				X			X
8		X	X		X		
9		X				X	
10				X	X		
11				X			X
12		X	X				X
13	X		X		X		
14	X			X			X
15		X	X		X		
16	X		X			X	
17	X			X			X
18		X	X			X	
TOTALS	7	5	9	8	4	3	11

considered Unimproved at discharge. The one case where the psychiatric report was not available was considered as Slightly Improved at discharge.

The six cases not seen at a psychiatric clinic presented four poor prognoses and two good, as seen by the referring agency or intake worker. The four with poor prognosis showed three to be Unimproved at discharge and one Improved. Both of the cases with good prognoses were Unimproved at discharge.

The writer was interested in discovering a close correlation between the cases evaluated as Unimproved and the number of children who could not accept placement because they were too disturbed or because of too strong family ties. This either led to the failure of the placement or prevented the formulating of a placement plan. Each of the eleven cases considered Unimproved gave as the chief reason for failure the fact that the child could not, or would not, accept placement. This also reflected, in three of the cases, the lack of an acceptable resource to meet the boy's needs. (See Table III, page 61)

TABLE III
BASIS FOR EVALUATION AT DISCHARGE

CASE NUMBERS	IMPROVED			SLIGHTLY IMPROVED		UNIMPROVED		
	PREVENTIVE PLACEMENT SUCCESSFUL	SOME SOCIAL RE- EDUCATION GIVEN	PURPOSE OF TEMPORARY PLACEMENT FULFILLED	PLACEMENT HELPED FAMILY SITUATION	BETTER ENVIRONMENT PROVIDED	ADEQUATE RESOURCES UNAVAILABLE	COULD NOT ACCEPT IDEA of PLACEMENT	COULD NOT ADJUST TO PLACEMENT
1						x		x
2								x
3								x
4							x	x
5						x		x
6								x
7								x
8	x							
9	x							
10								x
11								x
12							x	
13		x						
14						x		
15			x					
16								x
17					x			
18								
TOTAL	2	1	1	2	1	3	3	11

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS

From the afore-mentioned cases and discussion, several factors can be seen to enter into the measurement of the results of the services and help rendered by the Boston Children's Aid Association. It is important to remember that a good many of these cases presented a doubtful, if not poor, prognosis and were accepted by the Children's Aid Association only on an experimental basis, and as a demonstration of the help the Association could provide. Since such a large majority, 61 per cent, were considered Unimproved at discharge, the advisability of pursuing such a policy is doubtful. Certain basic services were rendered, such as medical and dental care, supervision, and the opportunity for adjustment to a new environment. However, it was noted in fifteen cases that the child could not accept placement or was not ready for placement. This seems to point out the need for longer study of the child in his own environment before placement is attempted. In some cases, of course, a child's ability to accept placement can only be discovered by the actual placement, and community pressure

may be such that the child cannot be allowed to stay in his own home. However, the writer feels that a more thorough knowledge of the child by the worker would reveal those children who cannot or should not be placed. In the case of the exceptions mentioned above, there should probably be available a temporary study home managed by people with professional training and experience in working with children, who can share on a cooperative basis with the worker, the task of studying a child, and preparing him for placement, if placement is indicated.

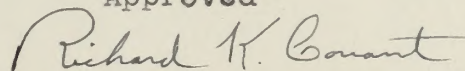
The value of using psychiatric resources for personality adjustment problems or deep-rooted anti-social behavior patterns is indicated by the close correlation between the prognoses and the eventual status at discharge. To have a child seen by a psychiatrist either while staying in his own home or in the temporary study home, would not only aid in a better selection of placement, within the limitations of available resources, but would reduce the incidence of the traumatic experiences of unsuccessful placement both for the child and for the foster parents. This would also avoid unnecessary expense, and the subsequent curtailment of placement opportunity and services to other children with a better prognosis, all of which are important considerations in a private child placing agency with

limited financial resources.

Finally, there is the consideration of the time element in the cases studied. It has been pointed out that some of the cases were known to the referring source as long as five years before referral was made. Therefore, it seems that workers in public agencies who have dealings with many families in which there are children who present a problem, should make an earlier referral to the Children's Aid Association. This would enable the Association to do case work preferably within the family unit, and assure a better prognosis if placement seems necessary.

The community as a whole should be more aware of the help and services available through the Children's Aid Association, to the extent of at least utilizing the agency for advice, and not allowing a slight difficulty to grow until it becomes a problem that constitutes a major threat to the boy's development, the family unit, and the community.

Approved

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard K. Conant".

Richard K. Conant
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APPENDIX

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- Kellock, Jean M. A Report of Cases Discharged in 1944 by the Children's Aid Association

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- Kellock, Jean M., A Report of Cases Discharged in 1944 by the Children's Aid Association

Explanation of Schedule

Case Numbers: Obvious

Schedule

Name of Child: Names and Case Numbers have been disguised

An Outline for Study of Eighteen Cases Discharged
In 1944 Who were in Care Less than Six Months at the
Boston Children's Aid Association

Date of Application: This item and the preceding one combine to show age at time of referral.

Notes of Significant Interest in the Case Histories

Source of Referral: The agency or person who applied to the Children's Aid Association for help.

Case Number: Referral: The reason for which the referring agency or person applied to the CAA

Name of Child:

Date of first Signs of Difficulty: The approximate time when the boy first showed signs of the difficulty for which he was referred.

Birthdate of Child:

Date of Application:

Family Situation: This includes financial, when known; the marital situation; and the boy's position in the family. Also, any pertinent factors affecting the referral problem are included.

Source of Referral:

Reason for Referral:

Date of first signs of Difficulty:

Use of Psychiatric Resources: Was boy sent to a psychiatric clinic for examination and recommendations?

Family Situation:

Use of Psychiatric Resources: The date of placement in foster home, group setting, or institution.

Date of Placement: Date of Removal is included, and refers to the placement immediately preceding.

Situation While in Placement:

Situation While in Placement: That is, the continuation or

Date of Discharge: cessation of behavior or evidence of poor personality adjustment that caused the placement.

Reason for Discharge:

Agency's Evaluation at Discharge: Case was closed by the worker, which may often be a date later than when the last contact was made by worker, due to the carrying of heavy case loads.

Reason for Discharge: As seen by worker.

Evaluation at Discharge: As assessed by the Study Department. (See Definition of terms)

Explanation of Schedule

Case Number: Obvious

Name of Child: Names and Case Numbers have been disguised and are fictitious.

Birthdate of Child: Obvious

Date of Application: This item and the preceding one combine to show age at time of referral.

Source of Referral: The agency or person who applied to the Children's Aid Association for help.

Reason for Referral: The reason for which the referring agency or person applied to the CAA

Date of First Signs of Difficulty: The approximate time when the boy first showed signs of the difficulty for which he was referred.

Family Situation: This includes financial, when known; the marital situation; and the boy's position in the family. Also, any pertinent factors affecting the referral problem are included.

Use of Psychiatric Resources: Was boy sent to a psychiatric clinic for examination and recommendations?

Date of Placement: This is the date of placement in foster home, group setting, or institution. Date of Removal is included, and refers to the placement immediately preceding.

Situation While in Placement: That is, the continuation or cessation of behavior or evidence of poor personality adjustment that caused the placement.

Date of Discharge: The date the case was closed by the worker, which may often be a date later than when the last contact was made by worker, due to the carrying of heavy case loads.

Reason for Discharge: As seen by worker.

Evaluation at Discharge: As assessed by the Study Department.
(See Definition of terms)

Definition of Terms

Discharge Evaluation

This is the assessment made by the Study Department at the time of discharge. It refers to any change or lack of change in the situation that caused referral. It is based almost entirely on the worker's discharge summary. The three categories, Improved, Slightly Improved, and Unimproved seem self-explanatory.

In Care

To be considered in care, a child must have been placed at some time after acceptance in a foster home or group setting. During the time of such placement, the child may be referred to as in placement status, but in care denotes that the child has been placed or is living at home following a placement.

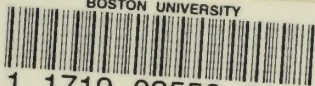
Prognosis

This represents the result of psychiatric study, the opinions of the referring source, or the opinion of the intake worker at time of referral, as to the probable result of the help and services that the Children's Aid Association could give in modifying behavior or aiding in personality adjustments. The three categories commonly used are Good, Doubtful, and Poor.

Psychiatric Study

This refers to actual interviews by a psychiatrist, for purposes of either diagnosis or treatment. Testing and examination is to be considered as included in such interviews, but is not sufficient in itself to warrant the use of this term.

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